

told Buchele she was making A's and B's in school.

Another is a letter from a mother, whose children would be able to start college using the backlogged child support Buchele had recovered for the family.

Yet another is a letter from a mother, who hadn't been paid child support for two or three years before Buchele got it started again.

"This year I will be able to put the boys in Scouts," the woman wrote.

"I was really touched by that letter," Buchele said. "I never realized that that cost was out of reach for some people sometimes because the laws aren't being enforced.

"It makes you appreciate the impact you can have by taking on an area that most judges and lawyers don't like to mess with," he said, referring to family law.

There is a saying that in family law, especially divorces, you see good people at their worst, and in criminal law, you see bad people at their best as a defendant shows his most positive image to influence jurors.

In the past, a district judge quickly could tire of trying divorces, deciding child custody questions between contentious parents and refereeing bitter domestic battles.

"That is the traditional take on what family law is all about," Buchele said. "That's not the way it is in Shawnee County any more."

Formulation of the "Shawnee County Family Law Guidelines," mandatory attendance at a workshop for divorcing parents, the supervised exchange of children, the development of family law into a speciality in which about a dozen attorneys handle about 80 percent of the cases and reducing the number of family law judges from nine to two has helped quiet the local domestic battles, Buchele said.

In an area of law that normally is assigned to a judge for a couple of years or so, Buchele has handled family law in Shawnee County for five years.

"I would rather see good people who are struggling, especially when there are children involved, and help them than sentencing drug offenders when you wonder how much good you're doing," Buchele said.

Buchele said that in family law, there is a real possibility to help someone, sometimes if only to end a marriage that has gone bad.

After 18½ years, Buchele's stint on the Shawnee County District bench ends when he retires Thursday.

The most harmful thing for a child whose parents are divorcing is to witness the ongoing conflict between mother and father, Buchele said, noting children whose parents stay in conflict "are the ones who have problems."

"I put the kids' interest first," Buchele said, acknowledging sometimes his decisions weren't popular with the parents because things weren't "equal." But if being equal means perpetuating the conflict between parents, equal isn't in the best interests of the child, Buchele said.

Buchele handled many criminal trials, the most memorable being the cases of Bobby Jackson, killer of three men in April 1994 at a south Topeka strip bar, and Kenneth "Kenny" Cook, who in September 1992 robbed a man of his drugs, shot him to death with a black powder pistol, mutilated the victim's body to block his identification and sank his body in a river.

Buchele, who sentenced Jackson, learned of Jackson's March 18, 1995, escape from the Shawnee County Jail while reading a newspaper in a Miami airport. Buchele, who had sentenced Jackson to 72 years in prison for convictions of two counts of first-degree murder, one count of voluntary manslaughter and other charges, was shocked.

"I wondered if he was looking for me," said Buchele, who was a little afraid. "It was a lightning bolt."

Jackson was recaptured on March 22, 1995.

Buchele has a reputation for enforcing the rules in the courtroom, including literally keeping attorneys on their toes. A sitting attorney who spoke to Buchele would quietly be instructed to stand when speaking to a judge. A spectator entering the courtroom with a cup of coffee in his hand would quickly be shown the door.

Both are the examples of decorum in the court, and Buchele's model for courtroom conduct was Judge Earl O'Connor, former chief federal judge for the district of Kansas.

After hanging up his judicial robes, Buchele will handle special assignments throughout Kansas as a senior judge, sit on the Kansas Court of Appeals to help ease a backlog of cases and work full-time as a mediator and arbitrator in business and family disputes.

"I think there will be a high demand," Buchele said. Dispute resolution is even finding its way into criminal cases to resolve charges before the case goes to trial. Buchele is undecided how he feels about that. "It's certainly a revolutionary approach," Buchele said.

Buchele has also become a co-author with the recent publication of "Kansas Law and Practice: Kansas Family Law." Co-author of the legal work is Linda D. Elrod, a Washburn University law professor.

#### COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE NATIVE WINS NATIONAL TITLE

#### HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Charles Morrison, Jr. of Columbia, Tennessee. The former Columbia Central High graduate recently took top honors among a field of 142 shooters at the 35th Annual ACUI Intercollegiate Clay Target Championships. Mr. Morrison is a freshman at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri where he is majoring in business.

The event, sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, consisted of teams from 22 colleges around the nation. The competition was held at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, Texas.

Morrison and his teammates finished with 5 shooters in the top 10, took the top four spots in the women's competition and captured first, second and third in team competition.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Morrison all the best in the future. With focus, determination, and skill aiding you the sky is the limit.

#### ADDRESS BEFORE THE STUDENT GLOBAL AIDS CAMPAIGN, MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, VT

#### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share with you some excerpts from remarks I gave at Middlebury College on May 2, 2003 regarding the international AIDS crisis:

Hello and thank you for inviting me to address this very important gathering. While I am most certainly not a great expert on this issue, I am appreciative that I have this opportunity to exchange a few thoughts with you.

The HIV virus respects no boundaries. In every corner of the world, it strikes young and old alike. Especially tragic, those infected include staggering numbers of children. Here are some numbers which should sober us all:

Last year, over three million people died of AIDS.

That represents nearly 8,500 persons dying each day from AIDS.

Last year alone, five million previously healthy people were infected with HIV.

Today, there are over 42 million people living with HIV/AIDS across the world.

No part of the world knows the devastation of HIV/AIDS more than Sub-Saharan Africa. Of the 42 million people living with the disease worldwide, over two-thirds—29 million people—are in this poverty-stricken region. 8.8 percent of the adult population in sub-Saharan Africa is infected with HIV/AIDS. And that number is growing: Seventy percent of the estimated 5 million new infections globally last year were in Sub-Saharan Africa. Unbelievably, in Swaziland, 38.6 percent of adults are infected.

Although the increase of AIDS/HIV infections has flattened in our own country, it still remains a crisis here. In North America overall, over one half of one percent of adults 15 to 49 years of age are infected, including an infection rate in the Caribbean of nearly two and a half percent.

How did the AIDS crisis get so dire? Part of the answer has to do with a failure in the American political system, a failure that was often mirrored in other political systems around the world.

The HIV virus was first identified in the United States over 20 years ago. Public policy is supposed to identify problems in society and come up with ways to make things right. But owing to a great failure on the part of many of our political and religious leaders at the time, the disease was not considered a matter of concern: On the contrary, it was met with ignorance, fear and, often, complete indifference. Tragically, many public figures used the appearance of AIDS as an opportunity to make political gains among right-wing voters by espousing the hateful and destructive rhetoric of homophobia. Some prominent religious conservatives framed the epidemic as a divinely-ordained blight upon gay men, while some reactionaries in Congress went so far as to consider bills proposing to quarantine gay men.

During these critical years, at the dawn of this pandemic, President Ronald Reagan remained silent. Although his supporters liked to call him "The Great Communicator," it took President Reagan seven years to publicly acknowledge the existence of the disease. AIDS, which in 1981—the first year of Reagan's term in office—had been diagnosed in roughly 335 people and took the lives of 158, exploded exponentially while he and his administration maintained a regime of silence in the face of the growing pandemic. Six years later, in 1987, when President Reagan finally uttered the word "AIDS" in public, over 71,000 people had been diagnosed in the United States and over 41,000 of them had died. In those shameful years of silence, the number of HIV/AIDS diagnoses had jumped 21,000 percent; the number of AIDS deaths had jumped 25,900 percent.

The failure of U.S. leadership, as well as political leadership around the world, at the outset of this crisis was blatant and unforgivable. Ignorance and denial and a stark